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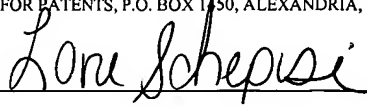
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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE (ALONG WITH ANY PAPER REFERRED TO AS BEING ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED) IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Lori Schepisi

Signature



Date: January 7, 2005

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Buser-Doepner, et al.

Int. Appln. No: PCT/US03/21145

Int. Filing Date: 03 July 2003

US Appln. No.: To Be Assigned

Case No.: 21125YP

Art Unit:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner:

For: MITOTIC KINESIN BINDING SITE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants request entry of this amendment prior to examination of the above-identified application, which is a 371 of PCT/US03/21145, international filing date of July 3, 2003.

Any fees associated with the submission of this amendment can be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION appears on page 2 of this paper.

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS appears on page 3 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 7 of this paper.